

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -5176
ANSWERED ON -03/04/2023**

Decline in Basic Reading and Mathematical Abilities among School Children

5176. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:
SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:
SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that as per the Annual Survey of Education Report (ASER) there has been a sharp decline in school children's basic reading ability besides a dip in mathematical abilities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise especially in Punjab along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is true that as per the ASER survey, there has also been a jump in the number of students taking private tuitions in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and especially in Punjab along with the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government is taking any measures to improve the reading and mathematical abilities of the students in the country and reduce the dependency on private tuitions in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) to (f): Achievement survey released in the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is conducted by a non-governmental organization.

However, The Government of India has been implementing a programme of sample based National Achievement Survey (NAS) aimed to measure Learning Outcomes at classes III, V, VIII and X with a cycle period of three years. The latest round of NAS i.e. NAS 2021 was held on 12.11.2021 and has covered (a) Government Schools (Central Government and State Government); (b) Government Aided Schools; and (c) Private Unaided Schools. Subjects covered are Language, Mathematics & EVS for class 3 & 5; Language, Mathematics, Science & Social Science for class 8 and Language, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and English for class 10. About 34 lakh students of 1.18 lakh schools from both rural and urban areas, have appeared in NAS 2021. National, State/UT and District Reports for NAS 2021 have been released on 25.5.2022 and are available at <http://nas.gov.in>.

Further, Foundational learning Study (FLS) - an assessment & benchmarking study for foundational learning was administered in March, 2022 by National Council of Educational

Research and Training (NCERT) at the national level in 20 different languages. Approximately 86,000 grade 3 students from 10,000 schools were covered and the survey result can be accessed at https://dse.education.gov.in/fls_2022.

Following initiatives have been taken by Department of School Education & Literacy to improve the foundational literacy and numeracy skills of students:

- National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN) Bharat Mission has been launched for the period 2021-22 to 2026-27 on 5th July 2021 which aims to ensure that all the children achieve foundational learning standards by the end of grade 3, by the year 2026-27.
- A 3-month play based preparedness programme for children entering grade I named VidyaPravesh has been designed to help teachers ensure that all children are exposed to a warm and welcoming environment, leading to their smooth transition to formal school.
- The National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) was launched on 20th October 2022 which includes engaging Teaching-Learning Material (TLM) both for teachers and students, teacher capacity building programme, assessment and pedagogical approaches to guide the nature of syllabus, textbooks and other resource material for teaching and learning in the country to be used at the foundational stage.
- JaaduiPitara was recently released on 20th February, 2023 for the foundational stage under the NCF-FS with the motto “Learning through play”. It is an exemplar of content needed in any school for the Foundational Stage.
- National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) training programmes in FLN and ECCE are being run to train teachers across the country
